Christina Lassalle

ET680

March 25, 2010

Funding Projects

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| **Grant: Kids In Need Foundation Teacher Grant** | |
| Timeline | Starting July 15, 2010 the application can be found online ([www.kinf.org](http://www.kinf.org)) or at sponsor’s retail store during back to school shopping |
| Deadline | September 30, 2010 at midnight through mail, fax, email, or online application (only 1 method) |
| Notification | December 1, 2010 (if you did or didn’t receive the grant) |
| Eligibility requirements | Must be a K-12 teacher in the U.S, principal’s approval on project |
| Restrictions on spending | Grant money cannot be used to purchase of pre-packaged lesson plans, classroom or library book collections, office machines, computers, field trips, speaker stipends, or teacher/substitute pay.  <http://www.kinf.org/grants/guidelines.php> |
| Selection criteria | *“The applications are judged according to a rubric which emphasizes innovativeness and merit, clarity of objectives, replication feasibility, suitability of evaluation methods, and cost effectiveness.”*  **Breakdown of evaluation:**  Project objectives- 20%  Replication feasibility: 20%  Innovated project with description in sequential order 40%  Evaluation instrument: 10%  Budget:10 % |
| Award amounts | $100-$500 |

The Kids In Need Foundation Teacher Grant recognizes innovation through hands on activities in K-12 schools. Funding for the Kids in Need Foundation comes from retail businesses as well as other organization’s donations. The foundation stresses the importance of understanding what the students are doing and how they are going to be assessed. We encounter this daily when planning and writing objectives. From the website, “The program is interested in funding the purchase of supplies or materials that students need to do such things as create a product, conduct an experiment, grow or tend living things, or learn new skill. The project should engage the students in hands-on activities that lead to the acquisition of new knowledge, awareness, or self-discovery.”

**Additional Information:** When submitting the application we must clarify if additional funding for the project will come from other sources. Additionally, projects must be different from the previous grant winners. See attached winning lessons “[Knowing Our Place, Finding Our Way](file:///C:\Users\Public\Documents\Science-Grade1-5-KnowingYourPlace.pdf)” and “[Awakening the Author Within](file:///C:\Users\Public\Documents\Language-Grade5-AwakeningTheAuthorWithin.pdf)”; if our grant is accepted, our lesson will be published under the [Guide to Award Winning Projects](http://www.kinf.org/projects/).

**Pro:** The values of Kids in Need match our school improvement team goals of “promoting a positive attitude towards learning.” The grant amount can fund one hands-on, innovative project for an entire grade level. For example, second graders will be able to make fossils for their reading unit and even document the steps to creating a fossil using an i-Flip camera. Another pro is that if we are unsure if a project qualifies for the grant, we can get immediate feedback by emailing Penny Hawk ([pennyh@kinf.org](mailto:pennyh@kinf.org)) or calling 877-296-1231, ext. 303. Finally, winning will bring prestige to our school.

**Con:** We can only have one specific project in mind that has been completed previously or a new innovative project. We will need to set up a preliminary selection process to choose the best project. However, we can apply next year to fund another project. If the project costs more than $500 we will need to get funding elsewhere. Also, technology such as Smart boards and document cameras cannot be purchased with this grant.

**Final recommendation:** I believe the Kids In Need Foundation can financially support one project that shows how we valuelearning through engaging activities, which can involve the technology already in our building.

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| **Grant: Toshiba America Foundation** | |
| Timeline | Begin late summer/ early fall - October |
| Deadline | October 1 |
| Notification | Not on website: Thanksgiving |
| Eligibility requirements | Must enhance science and mathematics in grades K-12 (public or private nonprofit school) during the school day. Principal approval on project timeline |
| Restrictions on spending | Computer hardware, audio-visual equipment, and field trip expenses may not be included in the budget. Project’s funding should not be based around a prepackaged kit. No more than 6 categories for spending. |
| Selection criteria | **Clarity**  **Completeness**  **Timeline**  **Evaluation**  **Cost Effectiveness**  **Creativity** |
| Award amounts | Under $1,000 |

The Toshiba America Foundation grant is similar to the Kids In Need Foundation by that they fund projects that are innovative for grades K - 12. The difference is that the Toshiba America Foundation wants inquiry based projects that enhance the area of science and mathematics. Funding comes from the Toshiba Corporation. To be funded, the projects should take place over a period of at least three class sessions. Toshiba America Foundation recommends reviewing the national mathematics and science standards when designing a project. The following web sites: [www.nctm.org](http://www.nctm.org) (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics) and [www.nsta.org](http://www.nsta.org) (National Science Teachers Association) are useful tools if we decide to pursue this grant opportunity.

**Additional information:** An example of a project recipient is the attached lesson, “[Precious Plants](Precious_Plants.docx).” The criteria of the project includes: having a clear understanding of the objectives/goal, appropriate timeline for the lessons, clear and appropriate evaluation of learning, completion of all paper work, effectiveness of budget, and an innovative approach. Other project winner lesson plans are located on the website at [www.toshiba.com/tafpub/jsp/forteachers/lessonplans.jsp](http://www.toshiba.com/tafpub/jsp/forteachers/lessonplans.jsp). The website has two separate applications for K-5 and 6-12 in word or a PDF file. Attached is the K-12 [application](Toshiba_applic_K-6.pdf) for more information. If the project receives funding, a final report must be submitted 30 days after project end. Projects must be completed by May 1st so that a project final report can be submitted by May 15th.

**Pro:** Innovativescience and mathematicslessons with an integration of technology can reach a variety of learners. Just as Kids in Need, we will need to find a grade level with a mini science/math unit that requires funding. For example, third grade’s mini inventors unit requires a variety of materials to create a specific invention. The inventions can be tested and data can be recorded in Excel or PowerPoint. These materials can be pricey and the Toshiba America Foundation can easily cover the costs. Another pro is that the foundation is there to help answer any questions. I received a fast response from [foundation@tai.toshiba.com](mailto:foundation@tai.toshiba.com).

**Con:** Just as the Kids In Need Foundation grant, we would need to determine a way to accept one project idea from a grade level. We would also have to have technology already in place because this grant cannot be used to purchase hardware and/or audio/visual equipment. Another con is that the grade level would have to complete the mini-unit in time for the final report to be submitted. Often, science is not made a priority in our schedule due to MSA testing.

**Final recommendation:** As long as a grade level has an innovative and inquiry based mini-unit that could use technology, we will have a chance with this grant.This grant can budget a more expensive project versus the Kids in Need Foundation grant.

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| **Grant: The Braitmayer Foundation** | |
| Timeline | Begin process in late spring or early fall |
| Deadline | Mail hard copy (no fax or email)  Summer (beginning proposal or 10,000 application): June 1st  Fall (full proposals): November 15th |
| Notification | Summer (beginning proposal or 10,000 application): September 1st  Fall (full proposal): March 15th |
| Eligibility requirements | K-12 public or private education in the US |
| Restrictions on spending | The foundation does not make grants to individuals, multiyear grants, nor grants for general operating, endowment purposes or building programs. The foundation does not make grants for childcare, pre-kindergarten, or after school programs nor for equipment including hardware, software, and books. |
| Selection criteria | **For $10,000 proposal or preliminary $35,000 proposal:**  A three page proposal describing the project, including timeframe, proposed budget, and contact information. Also, a proof of 501 (c)(3) status or other tax-exempt ruling letter.  **For $35,000 proposal:**  A two page letter of inquiry describing the proposed project, including timeframe, budget, and contact information. Also, a proof of 501 (c)(3) status or other tax-exempt ruling letter. |
| Award amounts | Summer: up to $35,000  Fall: up to $10,000 |

Unlike the Toshiba America Foundation and the Kids In Need Foundation, the Braitmayer Foundation’s focus is to improve schools though teacher preparation and staff development for K-12 schools. It was established in 1964 as a gift from Mariah S. Braitmayer in Marion, Massachusetts. Seven members of the family currently maintain the foundation.

**Additional Information:** Decisions will be announced for those who apply for the $10,000 grant by September 1st and March 15th. Successful organizations must wait two years before reapplication for a grant up to $10,000 or before beginning application for a grant up to $35,000.For the $35,000 grant, the trustees will invite selected organizations by September 1st to submit full proposals due November 15th. A representative of the foundation will conduct a site visit prior to the end of February. The final decisions will be announced by March 15th.

The website did not go into specific detail about the award recipients but there were a few proposals that were accepted in the area of technology. In 2006, a $10,000 grant was approved to support faculty development to integrate and implement technology throughout the curriculum at a high school in Tribune, Kansas. In 2002, a $10,000 grant was approved to support an initiative to strengthen technology instruction at a charter school in Fall River, Massachusetts. Other award recipients are listed on the website at <http://www.braitmayerfoundation.org/>.

**Pro:** Having time to play, use, and create in regards to technology has been put to the back burner due to budget cuts and furlough days. Our school has hardware such as Smart boards, document cameras, and even a Smart table. However, these technologies are not being used to their full potential. A proposed timeline, specific goals, and a budget can be developed by June 1st in order to fund staff development opportunities for the next school year. Along with being perfect for our needs, the office is located in Columbia, MD in case we want to discuss our proposal to see if it qualifies with the advisor Sabina Taj.

**Con:** The website does not go in detail about the winning proposals such as how frequent the staff development occurred, how manyteachers participated, how the project is assessed, what they will be looking for during the site visit, as well as if funds can be used to purchase equipment or teacher salaries.

**Final recommendation:** I am awaiting more information from Sabina Taj (410-480-2799), who has not returned my phone call. I wanted her to answer some of the questions that we may run into prior to discussing if this grant would be beneficial for us.